

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 PER-01 MMO-01 /015 W

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O R 111245Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2069

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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JIDDA PASS RIYADH

USIA FOR INA

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, ENRG, QA, US

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR PRESS OFFICER TO ASSIST WITH OPEC MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE

1. I HAD COUNTED ON NON-RESIDENT PAO MATTRAN TO ASSIST US FULL TIME WITH US PRESS REPS BEFORE AND DURING OPEC MINISTERIAL TO BE HELD IN DOHA BEGINNING DEC 15. I AM TOLD TODAY, DEC 11, THAT BECAUSE OF AMSPEC PROGRAM IN MANAMA, MATTRAN WILL BE ABLE TO HELP US ONLY FOR PART OF DAY ON DEC 12 AND THEN NOT AGAIN UNTIL DEC 15. ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE MATTRAN'S DILEMMA IN TRYING TO SERVE TWO POSTS THIS IS NOT SATISFACTORY. WE NEED FULL TIME PRESS AIDE HERE BEGINNING NO LATER THAN DEC 13 UNTIL CONFERENCE ENDS ON OR ABOUT DEC 18.

2. REPS OF SEVERAL MAJOR US PAPERS, AS WELL AS THOSE OF WIRE SERVICES AND TV NETWORKS, HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ARRIVE, AND BECAUSE OF GENERAL DISORGANIZATION OF GOQ INFORMATION APPARATUS
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THEY ARE SEEKING SERVICES FROM EMBASSY. WE HAVE ALREADY SPENT

CONSIDERABLE TIME IN ARRANGING VISAS, ETC, AT DIRECT REQUEST OF MEDIA REPS AND THOSE SENT US VIA THE DEPT, AND IN BRIEFINGS, AND WE NEED MORE HELP.

3. IN ADDITION TO OUR NORMAL FUNCTION OF ASSISTING US PRESS, IT BEHOOVES US TO STAY CLOSE TO IT DURING THIS CONFERENCE SINCE MEDIA REPS MAY HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO CONFEREES AND PROVIDE GOOD SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON WHAT IS GOING ON HERE. FOR THAT PURPOSE WE NEED AN EXPERIENCED PRESS OFFICER ON THE SCENE FULL TIME, WHO COULD ALSO ATTEND WHATEVER GOQ PRESS BRIEFINGS ARE OFFERED, NO LATER THAN DEC 13 SINCE PRELIMINARY MEETINGS AMONG OPEC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN DEC 12.

4. I REQUEST THAT SUCH AN OFFICER BE DETAILED TO DOHA, MOST PRACTICALLY FROM A NEARBY POST, I.E. KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, OR POSSIBLY RIYADH. (RIYADH IS EASY SIX HOUR DRIVE FROM DOHA.) BULOS MALIK, IN RABAT, WOULD BE IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR THIS TASK, AND I WOULD WELCOME HIS PRESENCE IF HE COULD GET HERE IN TIME.

5. I REALIZE THAT MOST AREA USIS POSTS ARE ONE-MAN OPERATIONS AND THAT OFFICERS ASSIGNED THERE ARE ALREADY FULLY OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN BUSINESS. HOWEVER, OPEC MINISTERIAL SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENTLY HIGH PRIORITY FOR US INTERESTS TO OVERRIDE LOCAL CONCERNS FOR A FEW DAYS. VOLUNTEERS FROM INFO ADDRESSEES WOULD BE WELCOME; OTHERWISE I ASK THAT CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES DESIGNATE A PRESS OFFICER TO PROCEED TO DOHA SOONEST.

6. WE WILL ARRANGE VISA AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DESIGNATED TDYER.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.
PAGANELLI

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